

YANKTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® SOUTH DAKOTA BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (March 26, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Matthew Mors of Yankton High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year**. Mors is the second Gatorade South Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Yankton High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Mors as South Dakota's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year award, Mors joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Karl-Anthony Towns (2012-13 & 2013-14, St. Joseph High School, N.J.), Dwight Howard (2003-04, Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln High School, Texas), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood High School, Calif.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington High School, Colo.) and Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame High School, Calif.).

The 6-foot-7, 225-pound junior forward led the Bucks to a 17-4 record and the Class AA quarterfinals at the time of his selection. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Mors averaged 19.5 points, 8.5 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 2.1 steals through 21 games. A three-time First Team All-State honoree, he is also a two-time Argus Leader Player of the Year.

Vice President of his school's service club, Mors has volunteered as a youth basketball coach and has donated his time on behalf of food, clothing and donation drives for school supplies. "Mors can do it all," said Craig Nelson, head coach at Washington High. "He's great in the post, he shoots it well and he can single-handedly help his team win games."

Mors has maintained a 3.96 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

Two-time winner Mors joins Gatorade South Dakota Boys Basketball Players of the A.J. Plitzuweit (2017-18, Vermillion High School), Matt Cartwright (2016-17, O'Gorman High School), Ty Hogleund (2015-16, Dell Rapids High School), and Deng Geu (2014-15, Washington High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

The 2019-2020 Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year announcement has been temporarily postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. To ensure the safety of everyone involved, The Gatorade Company will follow the guidance of experts and health officials as it determines the appropriate time to announce this year's winner.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Mors also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

###